

Message Text

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DEPT PASS COMMERCE FOR DAS SHERWIN

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TAGS: EIND, OECD

SUBJECT: JOINT CSTP/INDUSTRY COMMITTEE WORKING PARTY
MEETING, MAY 18-19

REF: PETERSON/FORMAN/FORRESTER TELCON MAY 11

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PART I OF DSTI/IND/76.30, "NOTE

ON THE REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE DSTI/IND/76.17"

BEGIN TEXT:

1. THIRTY THREE STUDIES HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO THE
SECRETARIAT FROM AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, JAPAN, THE
NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN, TURKEY, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND
THE UNITED STATES. THESE STUDIES ARE SUMMARIZED AND
ATTACHED AS AN ANNEX.

2. THE GENERAL AREAS TO WHICH THE STUDIES REFER ARE
NOT ALWAYS CLEAR IN THE COUNTRY REPLIES BECAUSE INDUS-
TRIAL ACTIVITY OFTEN COVERS ANY OF THE AREAS SUGGESTED
IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE. THIS NOTE, HOWEVER, TRIES TO
SUMMARIZE THE RESPONSES BY POINTING OUT SOME OF THEIR
COMMON FACTORS.

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3. MOST OF THE STUDIES WERE BASED ON SECTORAL ACTIVITIES OF INDUSTRY. FEW OF THEM, HOWEVER, APPLIED CROSS SECTORAL ANALYSIS COVERING DIFFERENT SECTORS. REGARDING THE TIME PERIOD, MANY OF THE STUDIES EXTEND OVER A PERIOD OF TEN OR TWENTY YEARS WHICH ENABLES A CLEAR VIEW TO BE GIVEN OF THE CHANGES IN THE PERFORMANCE OF INDUSTRY WITHIN AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE.

PUBLIC CONCERNS AND CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURE OF AN INDUSTRY

4. STUDIES OF THE COUNTRY INDUSTRY (SEE SW 2 IN THE ANNEX) GIVE EXAMPLES OF HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS AFFECT THE PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ABILITY OF FIRMS TO ADAPT TO THE NEW REQUIREMENTS. THE BURDEN OF ADAPTING AN ADEQUATE TECHNOLOGY TO MEET THE ANTI-POLLUTION REQUIREMENTS SEEMS TO BE PARTICULARLY HEAVY FOR THE SMALLER FIRMS. THE REASON WHY A TECHNOLOGY APPROPRIATE TO THESE FIRMS IS DIFFICULT TO DEVELOP COULD BE INVESTIGATED. IN ADDITION POSSIBLE STRUCTURAL CHANGES TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM COULD ALSO BE EXAMINED.

5. THE CASE OF THE PELLETIZING EQUIPMENT IN THE MANUAL GLASS INDUSTRY (SW 4) IS GIVEN BY A MEMBER COUNTRY AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE REACTION OF INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF MEDICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.

6. ANOTHER STUDY REFERRED TO BY A MEMBER COUNTRY RELATES TO THE RECYCLING OF USED BOTTLES AND CONTAINERS (US 5). THIS RECYCLING HAS CONSIDERABLE IMPACT BOTH ON THE RATIONAL USE OF ENERGY IN THE INDUSTRY AND ON THE METHODS OF PRODUCTION AND OF DISTRIBUTION, WHICH CALLS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFICIENT COLLECTION SYSTEMS WHICH WOULD REQUIRE MUCH GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY THAN BEFORE. (DELEGATES SHOULD NOTE THAT THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, THROUGH ITS WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY GROUP, IS NOW STUDYING THIS PROBLEM, AND THAT THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE HAS VERY RECENTLY PUBLISHED A REPORT ON THE ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY WHICH INCLUDES A UNCLASSIFIED

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CHAPTER DEALING WITH THE RECYCLING AND RECOVERY OF ALUMINIUM.)

TECHNOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND TRENDS IN THE INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURE OF AN INDUSTRY

7. MANY STUDIES EMPHASIZE THE POSITIVE ROLE THAT TECHNOLOGY INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES LIKE ELECTRONICS HAVE IN

CREATING NEW MARKETS AND JOBS, IN STIMULATING TRADE, AND
IN STRENGTHENING COMPETITIVENESS. THEY ALSO INDICATE
THE RAPID SHIFT OF COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES IN THE INTER-
NATIONAL MARKET BECAUSE OF NEW TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOP-

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MENT. THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET FOR ELECTRONICS PRO-
DUCTS IS SPECIALIZED BY PARTS AND COMPONENTS.
CHANGES IN WORLD TRADE ARE CLOSELY RELATED TO THE TECH-
NOLOGICAL CAPACITY OF COUNTRIES. IN THIS CONTEXT FUR-
THER STUDY COULD BE USEFUL TO DETERMINE THE ROLE OF
TECHNOLOGY IN THE CHANGES OF THE INTERNATIONAL STRUC-
TURE OF THIS INDUSTRY.

8. IN SOME OF THE STUDIES OF ELECTRONIC COMPONENT
MANUFACTURING, FOR EXAMPLE, AS IN THE CASE OF LARGE-
SCALE INTEGRATED CIRCUITS (AUST. 1), THE WIDER IMPACTS
OF ITS TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT ON MATERIAL SUPPLY,
FABRICATION, EQUIPMENT AND EHD USE INDUSTRIES ARE
ALSO EXAMINED. IN ORDER TO KEEP TECHNOLOGICAL FRONTIERS
GROWING, THE ROLE OF R&D BY INDUSTRY AND BY GOVERNMENT
ON CREATING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY MIGHT BE CONSIDERED

WORTHWHILE STUDYING.

9. THE STUDIES MADE IN SOME COUNTRIES ON TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES SUCH AS TEXTILE (UK 2) AND LEATHER (NL 1) PROVIDE SOME EXAMPLES OF THE RESPONSE OF AN INDUSTRY TO THE CHANGES IN WORLD PRODUCTION STRUCTURES. IN ADDI-
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TION TO THE TENDENCY TOWARDS MORE CAPITAL INTENSIVE WAYS OF PRODUCTION AND CONCENTRATION, COULD THE DEVELOPMENT OF COLLECTIVE TECHNOLOGY USED BY INDIVIDUAL FIRMS OF SMALLER SIZE GIVE ANOTHER SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM?

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY AND NEW INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURES FOR AN INDUSTRY

10. ANOTHER IMPORTANT STUDY REFERRED TO IN THE COUNTRIES' REPLIES IS THE CASE OF THE PRINTING INDUSTRY (SW1, UK1, NL3) WHERE NEW TECHNOLOGY SUCH AS PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPOSING AND COMPUTERIZED COMPOSING HAS EMERGED. THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT ARE VERY IMPORTANT FACTORS IN THE CHANGE OF THE STRUCTURE OF THIS INDUSTRY AND ON ITS LABOR POLICY. THE PRINTING INDUSTRY SEEMS TO BE A TYPICAL EXAMPLE WHERE NEW TECHNOLOGY IS AVAILABLE BUT WHERE INDUSTRY, IN ITS PRESENT STRUCTURE, HAS DIFFICULTIES IN ADAPTING ITSELF.

INTERSECTORAL LINKAGES OF TECHNOLOGY

11. THERE IS NO SPECIFIC STUDY WHICH FOCUSSES DIRECTLY ON INTERSECTORAL LINKAGES OF TECHNOLOGY. SOME STUDIES HOWEVER INCLUDE THIS AREA AND POINT OUT THAT INTERSECTORAL FLOW OF TECHNOLOGY IS ONE OF THE MAIN FACTORS FOR INNOVATION. THESE STUDIES RELATE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF USER-ORIENTED SOFTWARE FOR DESIGNING COMPUTERIZED OFFICES (SW 3), THE INNOVATIVE WORK IN THE GARMENT INDUSTRY FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE SEWING MACHINES (UK3) AND THE STUDY OF THE RATE OF DIFFUSION OF N TECHNOLOGY (AUST. 3).

EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT ON INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURES OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES

12. THE STUDY OF THE COMPARISON OF POLICIES FOR STIMULATING INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION (US 6) IS A FIRST AND USEFUL STEP IN THE EVALUATION OF GOVERNMENT MEASURES, BUT IN ORDER TO MAKE MEANINGFUL COMPARISON POSSIBLE, MORE WORK IN THIS FIELD WOULD BE REQUIRED. MOST OF THE STUDIES SUMMARIZED IN THE ANNEX DO NOT EVALUATE THE GOVERNMENT MEASURES TAKEN IN THE SECTOR STUDIES NOR THEIR INFLUENCE IN THE STRUCTURE OF INDUSTRY,
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WHICH WOULD BE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE FMULATION OF
EFFECTIVE POLICY GUIDELINES IN THE FIELD OF TECHNO-
LOGY AHD THE STRUCTURAL ADAPTATION OF INDUSTRY, THE
FINAL OBJECTIVE OF THE JOINT WORKIHG PARTY. END TEXT.
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